

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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sustainindy

DPW Encourages Residents to Properly Dispose of Spring Cleaning Trash

Illegal dumping presents seasonal problem for Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS –Every year, spring cleaning activity results in the rise of illegal dumping violations in Indianapolis. As a result, the Department of Public Works (DPW) encourages residents to take advantage of the available disposal resources such as heavy trash pickup and drop-off locations.

Surges in spring cleaning and the disposal of garage sale remains contribute to the seasonal increase in illegal dumping. Any debris disposed of in the public right of way, private property or city property classifies as illegal dumping. The most common sites for illegal dumping include alleys, river banks, wooded areas and vacant lots. This spring alone, volunteers cleared ten tons of trash from the White River banks during the 21st annual White River Cleanup.

Residents can help by disposing of trash at the proper locations. Households may place two items of heavy trash out for removal once a month in conjunction with regular trash pickup. Additionally, DPW offers drop-off trash disposal on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2700 S. Belmont Ave. Drop-off costs \$2.00 per carload and \$5.00 per truckload.

Illegal dumping is not only unsightly, but it also pollutes waterways. Stormwater can pick up illegally dumped items when it runs off of parking lots, streets, lawns and other surfaces. This polluted stormwater flows through storm drains untreated before emptying into our local streams and rivers. As a result, water quality along with aquatic wildlife and fish can be negatively impacted.

To dispose of oil, pesticide, paint and other hazardous materials, please visit one of four ToxDrop locations throughout Indianapolis. To find the nearest ToxDrop location, call 327-4TOX or visit www.indy.gov/ToxDrop.

Illegal dumping is a punishable offense warranting fines up to \$2,500. To report illegal dumping or for more information, please call the Mayor's Action Center at 327-4MAC (4622).

Mayor Ballard launched SustainIndy and created the Office of Sustainability in October of 2008. Both represent an innovative enterprise aimed at delivering long-term cost savings to the city, building the local economy, improving our quality of life and enhancing our environmental and public health. Its efforts are designed to aggressively move Indianapolis forward in making it one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest. For more information, visit www.sustainindy.org.

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